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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,009	11/24/2003	Mahesh Rajagopalan	03-1014	5652
25537 VERIZON PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP 1320 North Court House Road 9th Floor ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909	7590 02/24/2011		<div>EXAMINER</div> <div>GAY, SONIA L</div>	
			<div>ART UNIT</div> <div>2614</div>	<div>PAPER NUMBER</div>
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,009

Applicant(s)

RAJAGOPALAN ET AL.

Examiner

SONIA GAY

Art Unit

2614

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 and 67 - 69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 and 67 - 69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/28/2010
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Amendment filed 12/14/2010. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed December 14, 2010 has been entered. Claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60 – 63, and 67 – 69 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 1- 63 and 67 - 69 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60 – 63, and 67 – 69 being independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 1- 16, 30- 46, 60, 61, 63, 68 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dognata et al. (US 6,798,753) in view of Bannister et al. (US5,548,636), and further in view of Rodman et al. (US 2002/0103864).

For claims 1, 14, 30, 31, 44, 60, 61, 63, 68 and 69, Dognata et al. discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future (col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39); initiating contact with one or more conference users associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event, including initiating and connecting the call with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the

participants are contacted directly by phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants are contacted via e-mail) associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from one or more conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants respond by answering the phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants respond with an e-mail either accepting or rejecting the conference); and establishing a conference call between the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response (col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54). Yet, Dognata et al. fails to teach wherein the contacting comprises intercepting the call before connecting to the device associated with the first conference user; receiving call information in response to the interception of the call; determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information; providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device; and, establishing a collaboration between the initiating user and conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the data being shared interactively during the conference call.

However, Bannister et al. discloses a method for the purpose of routing an incoming call to a caller that subscribes to a personal communication service wherein the incoming call is intercepted, call information is received in response to the interception, and a preferred device (an alerting device, column 5 lines 1 - 7) is selected to receive a call notification (column 4 lines 50 – column 5 lines 7, 59 – column 6 line 59; column 8 lines 46 – column 9 lines 27, 60 – 67).

Additionally, Rodman et al. discloses a method for the purpose of coordinating a data conference between conference endpoints which can be connected to both the PSTN and a LAN to establish both an audio conference call and interactive data collaboration, wherein a subset or

the users that are authorized to participate in the data collaboration share data interactively (Abstract; [0011] [0012] [0023] [0026 – 0030] [0032] [0033] [0038 - 0043] [0045 -0050]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dognata et al. with the teachings of Bannister et al. and Rodman et al. for the purpose of enhancing the functionality of the conferencing system disclosed above in Dognata et al. by increasing the type of media used to conduct a conference to allow both audio and data conferencing amongst a subset conference users across the PSTN and the Internet (Dognata et al., column 3 lines 42 – 65; column 4 lines 36 – 44; column 5 lines 16 – 33, 67 – column 6 line 2). The numbers that are input to the conferencing system as disclosed above in both Dognata et al. and Rodman et al. can be personal numbers for the purpose of providing more flexibility in routing incoming calls to a user, wherein calls routed to these personal numbers are intercepted by a switch which uses the called numbers to access a personal communications server to retrieve a preferred device, i.e. a telephone, for the first conference user based on the call information and provide notification of the computer-enhanced call, as disclosed above in Dognata et al., to the first conference user at the preferred device, i.e. the telephone.

In regards to claims 2 and 32, Dognata et al. et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event comprises: scanning a data structure for the computer-enhanced conference call event (Dognata et al., col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 3 and 33, Dognata et al. et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the data structure comprises a calendar application (See Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22) associated with the initiating user (Dognata et al. et al., col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 4 and 34, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the computer-enhanced conference call event comprises a trigger indicating a proposed computer-enhanced conference call previously scheduled by the initiating user (Dognata et al. et al., col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39).

In regards to claims 5 and 35, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the proposed computer-enhanced conference call identifies the conference users and identifying conference users comprises: collecting identifiers for the conference users from a first data structure (Dognata et al., Fig. 2 and calendar view user interface 22) corresponding to the computer-enhanced conference call event; and collecting contact information for the conference users from a second data structure (Dognata et al., Fig. 2 and personal address book 33) based on the conference user identifiers (See col. 3-4 lines 66-5 and col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 6 and 36, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the first data structure comprises a calendar application (e.g., calendar view user interface 22) and the second data structure comprises an address book listing (e.g., personal address book 33) at least the conference users and their corresponding contact information (Dognata et al., col. 3-4 lines 66-5 and col. 4 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 7 and 37, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein initiating contact with the conference users comprises: collecting contact information associated

with the conference users; and attempting to establish a communication connection with the conference users using the contact information (Dognata et al., col. 6 lines 3-9)

In regards to claims 8 and 38, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the conference users and attempting to establish a communication connection comprises: dialing out to conference users using telephone numbers corresponding to the conference users (Dognata et al., col. 6 lines 3-9).

In regards to claims 9 and 39, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein providing a notification of the computer-enhanced call to the first conference user at the preferred device comprises: sending the notification, presenting the first conference user with an option for accepting or declining the computer enhanced call (Dognata et al., answering or not answering, column 6 lines 44 – 52).

In regards to claims 10 and 40, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein establishing a conference call comprises: connecting calls to devices of conference users based on the at least one response received from the conference users to accept the computer-enhanced conference call (Dognata et al., col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54).

In regards to claims 11 and 41, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein connecting comprises: bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call so that the initiating user and the conference users that accepted the computer-enhanced conference call request may conduct a conference call; and providing the initiating user with notification of any conference user that declined the computer-enhanced conference call (Dognata et al., col. 5 lines 16-35).

In regards to claims 12 and 42, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, comprising processing a conference user declining the computer-enhanced conference call by at least one of: receiving a communication from a conference user to record a message for subsequent play back to the initiating user; receiving a communication declining the call without any further processing by a conference user; receiving a communication from a conference user to set an alternate contact telephone number; and receiving a communication from a conference user to set a period of time in which the conference user is to be contacted again (Dognata et al., col. 5 lines 33-35).

In regards to claims 13 and 43, Dognata et al. discloses the method and apparatus, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to a preferred device of one of the conference users (Dognata et al., col. 6 lines 3-16).

In regards to claims 15 and 45, Bannister et al. discloses the method, wherein the determining the preferred device comprises: retrieving call preference information corresponding to the first conference user based on the call information; selecting the preferred device for the first conference user based on the retrieved call preference information (Bannister et al., column 8 lines 46 – column 9 lines 25, 60 - 67).

In regards to claims 16 and 46, Bannister et al. discloses receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration (Bannister et al., column 8 lines 46 – column 9 lines 25, 60 - 67).

4. Claims 17 -29, 47 -59, 62, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dognata et al. et al. (US 6,798,753), in view of Thompson et al. (US 2003/0005150), and further in view of Rodman et al. (US 2002/0103864).

For claims 17, 27, 47, 57, 62, and 67, Dognata et al. et al. discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for establishing a computer-enhanced conference call between a plurality of users (See Abstract), comprising: detecting a computer-enhanced conference call event that was previously configured by an initiating user to occur at a designated time in the future (See col. 2 lines 51-58, col. 4 lines 59-61, and col. 6 lines 31-39); initiating contact with one or more conference users associated with the conference, including initiating and connecting a call with a first conference user at a device associated with the first conference user (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants are contacted directly by phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants are contacted via e-mail) associated with the computer-enhanced conference call event; receiving at least one response from the conference users (for example, if the conference is dial-out, the participants respond by answering the phone and if the conference is dial-in, the participants respond with an e-mail either accepting or rejecting the conference); and bridging calls to devices of the initiating user and the conference users based on the at least one received response, wherein at least one of the calls is forwarded to the first conference user at a device (col. 5 lines 16-29 and col. 6 lines 31-54). Yet, Dognata et al. fails to teach wherein the contacting comprises intercepting the call before connecting to the device associated with the first conference user; receiving call information in response to initiating contact with the first conference user; determining a preferred device for the first conference user based on the call information and calendar information, the calendar information storing data

identifying a first device and a second device associated with a first conference user, the calendar information reflecting that the first device is preferred by the first conference user to share data interactively in the computer-enhanced conference call during a first time period and the second device is preferred to share data interactively in the computer-enhanced conference call during a second time period; and, establishing a collaboration to share the data interactively among the initiating user and a subset of the conference users that are authorized to participate in the collaboration, the data being shared interactively by the first user during the conference call.

However, Thompson et al. discloses a method for routing a call wherein a call is intercepted by a gateway (Fig.2, 12) which consults a user profile to access a schedule or calendar to determine the preferred device that will receive the call according to received call information, wherein calendar call routing is used to establish a conference (Abstract; [0009] [0029] [0031] [0032] [0041] [0042] [0051] [0054 – 0059] [0083] [0089] [0090] [0093 - 0097]).

Moreover, Rodman et al. discloses a method for the purpose of coordinating a data conference between conference endpoints which can be connected to both the PSTN and a LAN to establish both an audio conference call and interactive data collaboration, wherein a subset or the users that are authorized to participate in the data collaboration share data interactively (Abstract; [0011] [0012] [0023] [0026 – 0030] [0032] [0033] [0038 - 0043] [0045 -0050]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dognata et al. with the teachings of Thompson et al. and Rodman et al for the purpose of enhancing the functionality of the conferencing system disclosed above in Dognata et al. by increasing the type of media used to conduct a conference to allow both audio and data conferencing amongst a subset conference users across the PSTN and the

Internet (Dognata et al., column 3 lines 42 – 65; column 4 lines 36 – 44; column 5 lines 16 – 33, 67 – column 6 line 2). The numbers that are input to the conferencing system as disclosed above in both Dognata et al. and Rodman et al. can be personal numbers for the purpose of providing more flexibility in routing communications, including notifications of the computer-enhanced call as disclosed above in Dognata et al., to a user, wherein calls routed to these personal numbers are intercepted by a gateway which uses calling line identifiers to retrieve a preferred device from a calendar system which can register different destination devices per time periods.

Claims 18 – 26 and 48 – 56 are rejected for the same reasons disclosed above in the rejection of claims 2 –9 and 12.

In regards to claim 28 and 58, Thompson et al. discloses retrieving data corresponding to the conference users; selecting devices associated with the conference users to receive the notification based on the retrieved data; and providing the notification to the selected devices for display on the selected devices (Thompson et al., [0009] [0029] [0051] [0054 – 0059] [0083] [0089] [0090] [0093 - 0097]).

In regards to claims 29 and 59, Thompson et al. discloses receiving a designation, from at least one of the conference users, of a preferred device to participate in the collaboration (Thompson et al., [0051] [0054 – 0059] [0083] [0089] [0090] [0093 - 0097]).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 17, 30, 31, 47, 60 – 63, and 67 – 69 and respective dependents have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SONIA GAY whose telephone number is (571)270-1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sonia Gay/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614
February 16, 2011

/Ahmad F Matar/
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